

June 8, 2021

The South Carolina Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
contact@PSC.SC.gov, 803-896-5100

Dear Chairman Williams & Other Commissioners:

Thank you for your work on the Commission and for the opportunity to submit a comment on this matter. We ask that you please consider our comments in your ruling on the Integrated Resource Plans of Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress (referred to collectively as “Duke”).

South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light (SCIPL) engages faith communities to create a just and sustainable future. We are commenting on this proceeding because we believe that Duke’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) does not build towards this vision of a just and sustainable future for South Carolina. We want to urge the Commission to reject Duke’s plan and request that Duke submit an IRP that more adequately addresses climate change.

With “Electricity and Heat Production” activities as the largest source of global climate emissions by sector[1], the transition to clean energy generation is essential to addressing the climate crisis and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. However, rather than leaning into the clean energy transition, Duke is proposing a massive buildout of fossil fuel infrastructure in five of the six proposed portfolios in its most recent IRP. Results from a recent UN Report[2] show that the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure will not allow the global community to limit warming to 1.5°C, and according to a recent SACE Report[3], this plan will inhibit Duke from reaching its *own* climate targets.

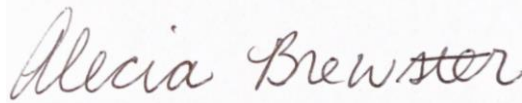
As the Commission heard from intervening parties in the evidentiary hearing, Duke’s proposal undervalues the risks associated with natural gas power plants and overestimates the costs of renewable energy technologies. With the inaccuracy of these assumptions and the narrow analysis of climate risks, Duke’s slate of portfolios misleadingly frames natural gas generation as the best option. However, we believe a more accurate and holistic analysis would lead to a better plan to meet the energy needs of South Carolinians.

As an organization that advocates for climate justice, we think it’s important for the Commission to consider the impacts of climate change on our most vulnerable communities. Disadvantaged, low-income communities routinely suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change and other types of environmental pollution. As the next generation of energy

infrastructure is chosen it is imperative that we think about who will benefit, and who will be burdened by the decisions we make.

We hope that the voice of faith communities on this issue is helpful and informative in your decision. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alecia Brewster". The ink is a dark brown or black color, and the signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Alecia Brewster

South Carolina Interfaith Power & Light

[1] <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data#Sector>

[2] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/global-methane-assessment-full-report?fbclid=IwAR3NJdDgy_U8C8UpG6uNy0C7egdhm0VcRH1w8Hm_xrBhORoIGDDaTLBNwqM

[3] <https://cleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Tracking-Decarbonization-in-the-Southeast-April-2021.pdf>